

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-02 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 OES-03 CEQ-01 EPA-01 /045 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UK, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - CONCORDE

REF: LONDON 17666; PARIS 31132

BRUSSELS FOR FAA

1. WORKING DRAFT CONCORDE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) STILL UNDERGOING INTERNAL DOT REVIEW. UNLIKELY TO BE SUBMITTED TO PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY UNTIL AFTER JANUARY 15. AT THAT TIME DRAFT EIS WILL BE SIMULTANEOUSLY FURNISHED OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES AND BODIES (E.G., EPA, STATE, INTERESTED CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES, AFFECTED LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS, ETC.). COPIES OF DRAFT CONCORDE EIS WILL BE AIRMAILED AND SUMMARY CABLED. WITHIN TEN DAYS AFTER THIS, CEQ REQUIRED TO PUBLISH FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE ADVISING PUBLIC OF EIS AVAILABILITY. FAA PLANS ALLOW 60-DAY PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT (INCLUDING POSSIBLE PUBLIC HEARING). ANOTHER 60-DAY PERIOD ANTICIPATED FOR EIS REVISION BASED UPON ANALYSIS OF COMMENTS RECEIVED,
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AT THE CONCLUSION OF WHICH A FINAL EIS WILL BE SUBMITTED BY

FAA TO CEQ. FAA MUST THEN WAIT 30 DAYS BEFORE TAKING ACTION REQUESTED (I.E., ISSUING A SPECIAL FLIGHT AUTHORIZA-

TION (SFA) PERMITTING CONCORDE ROUTE-PROVING FLIGHTS TO BEGIN). (CONCEIVABLY COURT SUIT BY ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP COULD DELAY.) UNLESS TIME FOR REVISING DRAFT EIS CAN BE

SHORTENED, AN SFA UNLIKELY BE ISSUED BEFORE JUNE 15.

2. BINNING AND OTHER STAFF MEMBERS VISITED FAA EARLY FALL WITH SGAC'S BALAZARD ACCOMPANYING AND IN NOVEMBER ALONE. THEY SUPPLIED TECHNICAL AND OTHER DATA FOR THE EIS BUT HAVE NOT BEEN SHOWN THE WORKING DRAFT. A BRITISH/FRENCH TEAM ALSO VISITED DULLES, BOSTON, MIAMI AND NEW YORK AIRPORT AUTHORITIES. RECENT CHANGES IN BOSTON AUTHORITY COULD HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT ON LIKELIHOOD CONCORDE APPROVAL. NEW YORK PORT AUTHORITY APPARENTLY IS AWAITING RESULTS RECENT CONCORDE NOISE TESTING IN CASABLANCA AND EIS.

3. BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT FAA MAY BE UNABLE TO ISSUE SFA BY MAY 15 WHICH MAY DELAY THEIR PRESENTLY ANNOUNCED PLANS TO BEGIN ROUTE-PROVING FLIGHTS ON OR ABOUT THAT DATE.

4. SEPTELS ON STATUS NOISE AND ENGINES RULES; ALSO ON PENDING SUITS WILL FOLLOW. KISSINGER

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